

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Employees Attend Distracted Driving Course

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

SEGUIN, Texas – More than 150 City of Seguin employees received an eye-opening look at the dangers of distracted driving this week. The Texas Department of Transportation brought its *Distracted Driver Course for Adults* to the Seguin Coliseum on April 23 and 24.

“Most people know that driving while distracted is dangerous,” Seguin Public Information Officer Scott Packard said. “This course was a great opportunity for our employees to hear from an expert and see videos that visualize the danger.”

Robert McCaughey, a law enforcement liaison with the Texas Municipal Police Association, taught six one-hour classes for City employees. While cell phone use is the most recognizable driving distraction, McCaughey explained how eating, drinking, grooming, reading, programming a navigation system and adjusting audio devices while driving can be just as distracting.

According to TxDOT, distracting driving related crashes and fatalities are highest among young adults and adults over the age of 45. Last year, 94,943 Texas crashes involved distracted driving and 459 people were killed as a result.

“City employees who routinely drive while on the job were highly encouraged to attend one of the courses but it was open to all employees,” Packard continued. “We are very pleased with the attendance and feedback.”

Attendees were asked to provide written feedback following the course. Below are some of the responses:

- “This course has really opened my eyes to what I have been doing and what I should be doing.”
- “Well worth the time spent to attend!”
- “It really makes you think about all the distractions out there.”
- “I will now preach to my family how important it is to pay total attention.”
- “Would be great as a take home to share with family members.”
- “Great course! Great information! Nice dose of reality.”

The course is funded by TxDOT and the National Traffic Highway Administration. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the kickoff of TxDOT’s *Talk, Text, Crash* public education campaign. More information about the campaign is available at BuckleUpTexas.com, TxDOT.org or by contacting TxDOT Media Relations at (512) 463-8700.

About the City of Seguin

Seguin, Texas is located along Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational, and employment opportunities. Seguin’s robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

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